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Bligh E. Wood. Letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting the claim of Bligh E. Wood on account of depredations by Yancton Sioux Indians.

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BLIGH E. WOOD.

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LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

*The claim of Bligh E. Wood on account of depredations by Yancton Sioux Indians.*

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JANUARY 26, 1871.—Referred to the Committee of Claims and ordered to be printed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Washington, D. C., January 26, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration and action of Congress, under the provision of the 4th section of the act of 15th July, 1870, making appropriations for the Indian service, the claim of Bligh E. Wood for the value of two steers and one cow, belonging to him, and which were killed and made use of by the Yancton Sioux Indians in February, 1869.

The letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in relation to said claim is also herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully,

C. DELANO,  
*Secretary.*

Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,  
*Washington, D. C., January 6, 1871.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith, for your consideration and decision, the claim of Bligh E. Wood for a depredation by Yancton Indians upon his property on the 1st day of December, 1868. The claimant makes affidavit that a number of Yancton Indians killed and carried off two steers belonging to him, worth \$25 a head; also, that on the 15th day of February, 1869, a Yancton Indian went into his cow-yard and killed a valuable cow worth \$75. Claimant further says the chiefs in council agreed to pay for the cow, they to have her carcass, she being in good condition; that the carcass was delivered to, and made use of by them. P. H. Conger, late agent for the tribe, certifies

that he knows the statement of Mr. Wood to be true, and the price put on the cattle to be reasonable; he also makes affidavit to the same effect on the 21st July, 1869. Frank Vasser testifies, under oath, August 3, 1869, that he was herder for Mr. Wood, and that two of his steers, worth \$25 each, were killed and carried off by Yancton Indians, on the 1st of December, 1868. This man Vasser being present afterward when Agent Broatch made demand for satisfaction of the Indians in council, stated in presence of the chiefs that these two steers were not the property of Mr. Wood. Agent Broatch expresses no opinion upon the conflicting statements offered by him. The first statement is the only one which appears to have been made under oath.

The Indians acknowledge the claim for the cow to be good, and are willing to pay for it, but deny that any of their people killed the steers. Although the testimony of Frank Vasser, under oath in 1869, may be doubted and have but little weight, because of his subsequent contrary evidence, yet I think the testimony of late Agent Conger sustains the charge. Governor Burbank, ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs, recommends the payment of the claim. In my judgment it should be allowed in the sum of \$125, and I respectfully submit that it be laid before Congress, with a request for a special appropriation therefor, under the 4th section of the act making appropriation for the Indian Department, approved July 15, 1870.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. S. PARKER,  
Commissioner.

Hon. C. DELANO,  
Secretary of the Interior.

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*Papers in the case of the claim of Bligh E. Wood for a depredation in 1868 by Yancton Indians.*

YANCTON AGENCY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,  
July 20, 1869.

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, Bligh E. Wood, and after first being duly sworn, deposes and says, that on or about the 1st day of December, 1868, that a number of Yancton Indians, whose name are unknown to him, went to the herd where he, the said Wood, had two yearling steers, and killed and carried off the said two steers and made use of the same; and he further says that the said steers were well worth \$25 each. And he further deposes that on the 15th day of February, 1869, that a Yancton Indian, by name unknown to him, went into his cow-yard, and thrust through the body with a saber, or some other sharp instrument, a valuable cow, so that she died; and he says that said cow was well worth \$75; and he further says that he called the chiefs and interpreter, and that after the matter being discussed, that the chiefs agreed to pay for the cow, and it was understood that the Indians should have the carcass of the cow, she being in good condition and excellent beef; and he further says that the cow was delivered to the Indians, and made use of by them; and he now prays that he be paid for his property out of the moneys due the said Yancton Indians from the United States.

BLIGH E. WOOD.

Subscribed and sworn to before me the day above written.

P. H. CONGER,  
United States Yancton Agent.

I certify that I know the foregoing statement of Mr. Wood to be true, and that the value set by him on the said cattle is reasonable, and as cheap as like cattle can be purchased in this section of the country.

P. H. CONGER.

*The United States to Bligh E. Wood,*

DR.

December 1, 1868. For two steers killed by Yancton Indians, at \$25.....	\$50 00
February 15, 1869. For one cow killed by a Yancton Indian.....	75 00
	<hr/> 125 00 <hr/>

I certify on honor that I have fully examined the above account, and find the same to be correct and just, and recommend the same to be paid out of the annuity belonging to the Yancton Sioux tribe of Indians.

W. J. BROATCH,  
*Captain United States Army, Agent.*

YANCTON AGENCY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,  
*July 21, 1869.*

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned, H. M. Conger, and after being duly sworn, deposes and says: That on or about the 1st day of December, 1868, that a number of Yancton Indians, whose names are unknown to him, went to the herd where B. E. Wood had two yearling steers, and killed and carried off the said two steers, and made use of the same; and he further says that the said steers were well worth \$25 each; and he further deposes and says, that on the 15th day of February, 1869, that a Yancton Indian, by name unknown to him, went into Wood's cow-yard and thrust through the body with a sabre or some other sharp instrument a valuable cow, so that said cow died; and he says that said cow was worth \$75.

H. M. CONGER.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 22d day of July, A. D. 1869.

W. J. BROATCH,  
*Captain United States Army, United States Indian Agent.*

YANCTON AGENCY, D. T., *August 3, 1869.*

Personally appeared before me the undersigned, Frank Vasser, and after being duly sworn, deposes and says, that on or about the first day of December, 1868, that a number of Yancton Indians, whose names are unknown to him, went to the herd, Frank Vasser being the herder at the time, and killed two yearling steers belonging to B. E. Wood, and carried the same away with them; and says that said steers were worth \$25 a piece.

FRANK VASSER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3d day of August, 1869.

W. J. BROATCH,  
*Captain United States Army, Indian Agent.*

YANCTON AGENCY, DAKOTA TERRITORY,  
*May 12, A. D. 1870.*

Personally appeared before me, Felix Le Blanc, of lawful age, and being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says, that he has resided upon the Yancton Indian agency in the capacity of black and tinsmith, from May 15, 1867, until the present date, and that in December, 1868, B. E. Wood was employed as the agency carpenter; and he further swears that in December, 1868, one cow, the property of B. E. Wood, was killed at the Yancton Indian agency by the Indians. Further affiant sayeth not.

FELIX LE BLANC.

Subscribed in my presence, and sworn to before me this 12th day of May, A. D. 1870.

W. J. BROATCH,  
*Captain United States Army, Indian Agent.*